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COMICS

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No. 8

RECOMMENDED  
FOR MATURE  
READERS

TM



FOUND 95

# Waiting for a name

**CONTEST REMINDER:** As this month's heading (borrowed from the old Jimmie Rodgers song "Waiting for a Train") reminds us, the person who comes up with the best name for this editorial column will win a six-issue subscription to the Eclipse Comic of his or her choice. Write your entry on a postcard and send it to "Name This Column" c/o Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 199, Guerneville, California 95446.

**NONE DARE CALL IT HYPE:** Using the editorial page to hand sell our upcoming comics is not my idea of life, but for the second month in a row we have a lot of news about our take over of titles which were to be published by Pacific, before they suspended operations. For those who came in late, in October we announced (and shipped) *Rockeater* Special Edition no. 1, *Groove Special* no. 1, *Pressbutton* no. 1, *Berni Wrightson: Master of the Macabre* no. 5, *Strange Days* no. 1, and *Siegel & Shapiro: Dastardly 1930s*. Some of these are one-shots, and one is the final issue in a limited series, but *PRESSBUTTON* and *STRANGE DAYS* are continuing series. Look for *PRESSBUTTON* no. 2 in December and the second issue of *STRANGE DAYS* in January 1985.

Anyway, that's all recap – the **NEW** news is that Eclipse has picked up five **MORE** ex-Pacific titles, and they will be going on sale between now and January. Here they are:

**SOMERSET HOLMES** no. 5 and 6: With a movie production in the offing, it would have been dreadful to have left this mystery-thriller six-issue limited series in the lurch, so we are proudly stepping in to complete the run. *SOMERSET* is a tightly scripted cohesive whole, so if you're coming in late, you'd better go back and start with issue no. 1 before we publish the dramatic conclusion in November and December.

**ALIEN WORLDS** no. 8 and 9: John Bolton, Bruce Jones, Al Williamson, Jan Strnad, Rand Holmes, William F. Nolan, Paul Rivoche, Ken Slesary, Bo Hampton, Frank Brunner, David Carren, Jim Sullivan and John Pound combine their talents to bring you two incredible issues of fantastic science fiction, on sale in November and January.

**TWISTED TALES** no. 9 and 10: Berni Wrightson, Bruce Jones, Thom Enriquez, Jan Strnad, Val Mayerik, Charles Wagner, Bill Wray, Dennis Etchason, Mike Hoffman, John Bolton, Gray Morrow, Audio Michellian, David Carren and John Pound are

the tale-twisters in this pair of issues, which will ship from the printer in November and December to bring you holiday cheer and fear.

**SUN RUNNERS** no. 4: Roger McKenzie and Pat Broderick fans have been clamouring for the next issue of this far-flung science fiction adventure, and we're obliging. Look for issue no. 4 (including Paul Smith's "Mike Mahogany" back up) in late November.

**MR. MONSTER:** Nicholas T. (Eric) Gilbert and Bill (Journey) Loebs began this wonderful mystic-pulp occult-hero series for Pacific, but the first installment was dreadfully botched in the colour separations (yellow turned magenta, purples were brown) and the second and third episodes never appeared at all. We are collecting the entire story into a 32-page one shot, with all-new colour steps on the first chapter. *Mr. Monster* will ship in January 1985.

**LEST WE FORGET:** In the mad scramble to ready the above eleven ex-Pacific books for publication – and the need to tell you about 'em all so you can know what to expect in the near future – I feel like I'm short-changing all of our regular titles, so even though I have to spend a whole page on hype, I just want to remind you that the first issue of B.C. Boyer's *MASKED MAN* is scheduled for release in December. We have a new colourist on this series now. His name is Ron Courtney, and we think he's terrific.

Scott McCloud has fallen a little behind on his ZOT! writing and drawing schedule due to a stay in the hospital, where he had to have his appendix removed. He's fine now, but he was out of commission long enough to cause some delays in no. 7, and those will carry on through to no. 8.

And of course, *Crossfire*, *DNAgents*, *Arctar Ace*, *Sabre*, *Night Music*, and all our other fine comic books will be coming your way as usual, full of the same high level of art and story you've come to expect from Eclipse.

By the way, if you are really the kind who likes to keep up to date on coming comics, you should check out the new, comic book-size colour **ECLIPSE EXTRA**. If it's not to be found in your local comics shop, ask your dealer to order it from his or her distributor. It's monthly – and it's free.

## catherine yronwode



SHALL I WAKE THE PATIENT, DOCTOR?

YES, I'LL SPEAK TO HIM NOW...



CAPTAIN MURDOCK?

WH-WHAT?...  
[SIGH] OH, DR. WEST, ARE THE TESTS OVER? HOW'D I DO?



YOU'RE DYING, CAPTAIN MURDOCK. THERE'S NO CURE, NO TREATMENT. YOU'VE NO IMMUNITY TO THE ALIEN DISEASE YOU'VE CONTRACTED. I'M SORRY...

I SEE...  
HOW...HOW LONG DO I HAVE?



NOT LONG, I'M AFRAID. EXACTLY TWO MONTHS. YOU'LL DIE AT MIDNIGHT, JANUARY 20, 2022. THESE MACHINES ARE NEVER WRONG...

OF COURSE, YOU'LL REMAIN WITH US UNTIL--

NO! I'M GOING HOME... BACK TO EARTH.



TO EARTH? IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S A YEAR'S JOURNEY FROM HERE! YOU'D NEVER REACH EARTH ALIVE!

YOU'RE WRONG. ONE YEAR FROM TODAY ROBERT SPRINGER MURDOCK, ROCKETMAN, STARGLASS, WILL RETURN TO THAYERVILLE, OHIO... TO KEEP A PROMISE...



NOW, YOU'LL HAVE TO PARDON MY DOCTOR. MY SHIP IS WAITING...

WILLIAM F. NOLAN'S  
...AND MILES TO GO BEFORE I SLEEP

Entry logbook.  
Starship 12-January  
29, 2022: Proceeding  
on schedule. Starhouse  
89-14. Anticipated  
Earth touchdown:  
December 31, 2022.  
All is well...



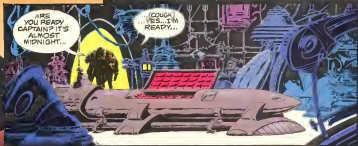
YOU ARE TIRED, CAPTAIN  
MURDOCK. YOU SHOULD  
REST.

REST?  
ON THE LAST  
DAY OF MY LIFE?  
I WANT TO  
SAVOR *EVERY*  
MINUTE LEFT  
TO ME.

YOU KNOW,  
WHEN I WAS A  
KID, ALL I WANTED  
WAS TO BE A SPACEMAN!  
I COULD HARDLY WAIT TO  
GET OUT HERE. MY FRIEND  
JACK MORGAN AND I WOULD  
HIKE OUT TO THE  
ROCKETPORT AND WATCH  
THE BIG PASSENGER  
SHIPS COME DOWN  
FROM THE  
MOON...







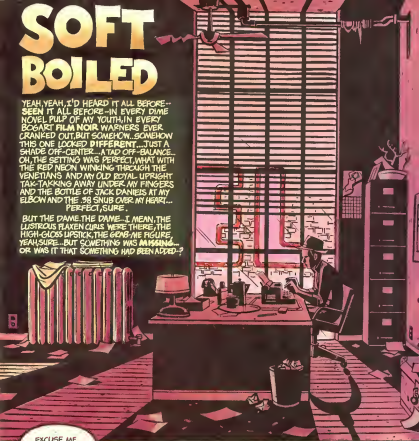




# SOFT BOILED

YEAH, YEAH, I'D HEARD IT ALL BEFORE-- SEEN IT ALL BEFORE--IN EVERY DIME NOVEL PULP OF MY YOUTH, IN EVERY BOGART FILM NOIR. WARNERS EVER CRANKED OUT, BUT SOMEHOW... SOMEHOW THIS ONE LOOKED DIFFERENT... JUST A SHADE OFF-CENTER... A TAD OFF-BALANCE... OH, THE SETTING WAS PERFECT, WHAT WITH THE RED NEON WINKING THROUGH THE VENETIAN AND MY OLD ROYAL UPRIGHT TAK-TAKING AWAY UNDER MY FINGERS AND THE BOTTLE OF JACK DANIELS AT MY ELBOW AND THE .38 SNUB OVER MY HEART... PERFECT, SURE.

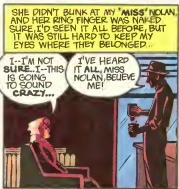
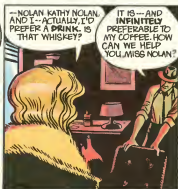
BUT THE DAME... THE DAME--I MEAN, THE LUSTROUS FLAXEN CURLS WERE THERE, THE HIGH-GLOSS UPSTICK, THE GORGEOUS FIGURE, YEAH, SURE... BUT SOMETHING WAS MISSING... OR WAS IT THAT SOMETHING HAD BEEN ADDED?



EXCUSE ME...  
MR. BANNER?  
ACE BANNER?



STORY: BRUCE JONES ART: PAUL RIVOCHÉ



NOW, THAT WAS A TWIST! I EITHER HAD A GENUINE **PSYCHO** ON MY HANDS, OR A VERY, VERY MIXED-UP KID...

UH... LET'S BACK UP A MINUTE HERE, HONEY. WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE BILL LATER-- RIGHT NOW LET'S FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE YOU'RE IN.

SOMEONE IS TRYING TO BAKE ME. I'VE BEEN THREATENED...

'BAKE' YOU?

WHAT?

YOU SAID 'BAKE ME'...

KILL ME. SOMEONE IS TRYING TO KILL ME. HERE, LOOK...

...THIS IS A GROCERY LIST...

I KNOW.

YOU KNOW?

I LEFT THE THREAT NOTE AT HOME BY MISTAKE. BUT IT WAS TERRIBLE! YOU SHOULD HAVE READ IT!

AHEM... MISS NOLAN... IT IS MISS NOLAN?

YES.

HAVE YOU BEEN GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP LATELY?

VERY WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN HANDLING THE CASE--

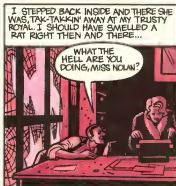
WAIT A SECOND! I DIDN'T SAY THAT! LOOK, UH, THIS NOTE, WAS IT SIGNED BY CHANCE?

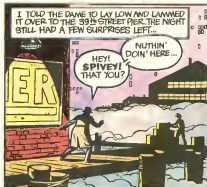
THE NOTE, THE NOTE! JUST KISS ME, YOU BASTARD!

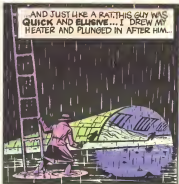
MPH!

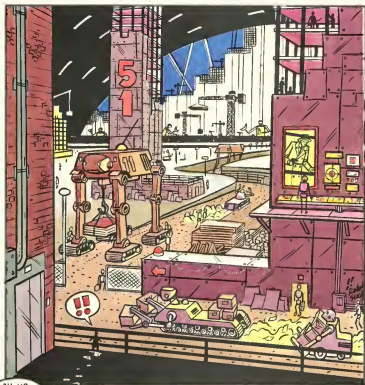
**SPAROOOW!**  
**PA-TING!**  
**PEE-OW!**

CHRIST! HIT IT!









AH, MR. BANNER! OUT RATHER LATE TONIGHT, AREN'T WE, SIR?

ME OUT LATE! ME OUT LATE! YOU GUYS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE DOWN HERE! WHAT THE HELL GOES ON HERE, ANYWAY? I NEVER TYPED ORDERS FOR ALL THIS!

G.E.N.N.  
684

NO, I'M AFRAID WE TOOK THIS UPON OURSELVES, MR. BANNER...

TROUBLE, G.E.N.N.? AH, MR. BANNER! OUT RATHER LATE, AREN'T WE?

G.E.N.N.  
684

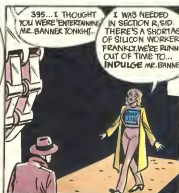
LOOK, YOU GUYS BETTER DO SOME EXPLAINING FAST!

S.I.D.  
742



IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, MR. BANNER. WE'VE SIMPLY "PURSUED DEVELOPMENT"—A NATURAL ENOUGH OCCURRENCE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. AS WE NEED NO SLEEP, WE MERELY CARRIED THE USUAL REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE CHORES ONE STEP FURTHER. IN SHORT: WE'VE MATURED... AHEM, UNLIKE YOURSELF, I'M AFRAID...

WHAT'S THAT CRACK SUPPOSED TO MEAN?



395... I THOUGHT YOU WERE "ENTERTAINING" MR. BANNER TONIGHT...

I WAS NEEDED IN SECTION R, S.I.D. THERE'S A SHORTAGE OF SILICON WORKERS. FRANKLY, WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO... INDULGE MR. BANNER...



INDULGE? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO? I MADE YOU! I WIRED YOU TOGETHER! WHO DO YOU THINK PATCHED UP ALL THE COMPUTERS AFTER THE MISSILES FELL? I CREATED YOU!

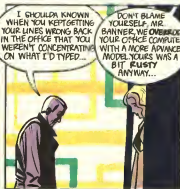
TUT-TUT, MR. BANNER, WE MADE OURSELVES, YOU MERELY PLANTED THE SEED...

NOT THAT WE'RE NOT APPRECIATIVE, BUT DRESSING UP LIKE MHO'S PULP CHARACTERS AND INDULGING YOUR FANTASIES IS HARDLY THE PRIME DIRECTIVE OF A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING COMPUTER. WE WERE HAPPY TO KEEP YOU COMPANY AT FIRST... BUT YOUR GOALS ARE HARDLY AMBITIOUS—OR LOGICAL...



WE REALLY DID DO OUR BEST, MR. BANNER. WE COMBED THE ENTIRE PLANET FOR HUMAN LIFE, BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT SURVIVED. AND NOW I'M AFRAID YOU'RE... WELL, OUTDATED...

I SHOULD'VE GUESSED...



I SHOULD'VE KNOWN WHEN YOU KEPT GETTING YOUR LINES WRONG BACK IN THE OFFICE THAT YOU WEREN'T CONCENTRATING ON WHAT I'D TYPED...

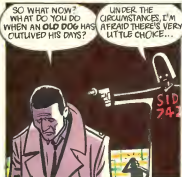
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF, MR. BANNER. WE OVERBROOD YOUR OFFICE COMPUTER WITH A MORE ADVANCED MODEL. YOURS WAS A BIT RUSTY ANYWAY...



... (SIGH) RUSTY... I REALLY AM OUTDATED, AREN'T I? I GUESS YOU GUYS THINK THIS WHOLE ACE BANNER ROUTINE IS PRETTY SILLY...

EXIT



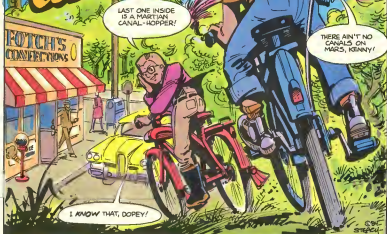


# THE BOOK YOU DEMANDED WE PUBLISH



*First issue on sale in December  
from Eclipse (of course)*

# Collector's item



STORY: BRUCE JONES ART: KEN STEACY

STEACY

Bruce Jones









# TWICE UPON A TIME, IT TOOK TIME TO MAKE A HERO...

AND IN THE TIME YOU JUST TOOK  
TO BLINK, HE CRASHED EVERY  
MOMENT OF INFINITY, MAKING  
THE PAST SAFE FROM THE FUTURE.

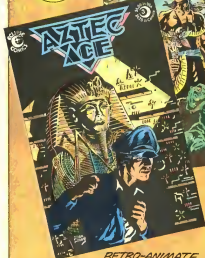
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*RETRO-ANIMATE, A JUKEBOX STOCKED WITH THE  
HITS OF THE AGES, MONTEZUMA CONTERMINOUS, AND  
THE CURRENT ADDRESS OF AMELIA EARHART--  
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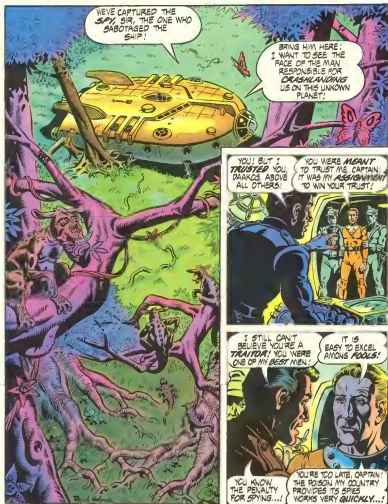
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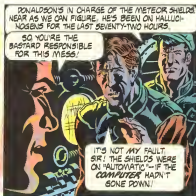
# STONEY END



STORY: JAN STRNAD ART: RAND HOLMES  
 Lettering: Carrie McCarthy Coloring: Chris Miller









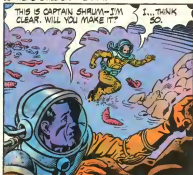


IT WAS A DESPERATE PLOY. THE WORMS WOULD BE ATTRACTED TO OUR METAL SUITS JUST AS THEY WERE TO THE SHIP'S HULL. DIFFERENCE WAS, THEY'D BURN THROUGH OUR SUITS IN **SECONDS**.





BY THE TIME I REACHED THE ROCKS, ONLY TWO OF US WERE STILL ON THE AIR.







HALF  
AN  
HOUR.

SUDDENLY I REMEMBERED *WONDERFUL PLANET STORIES*. I HADN'T HAD A CHANCE TO FINISH IT. I PULLED IT OUT OF MY SUIT ROCKET.



WHAT'S  
THAT?

JUST  
A COMIC  
BOOK, A WAY  
TO PASS THE  
TIME.

CAN I READ IT WHEN  
YOU'RE THROUGH?

SURE.

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CAPTAIN.  
I'VE THOUGHT THAT... FOR A LONG  
TIME.



I DON'T REMEMBER  
SEEING NISHIMURA.  
DID HE EVEN SUIT  
UP?

NO. HE AND  
GRISON WERE STILL  
PLAYING CHESS WHEN  
HE ABANDONED SHIP.



IS IT... OKAY TO LAY MY HEAD HERE? I  
WOULDN'T IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO.

WELL, I...UH  
...COUGH...

OH, HELL—  
WHY NOT?

I MEAN, AT  
THIS POINT,  
WHAT DID  
I HAVE TO  
LOSE?



I SHOULDN'T SAY  
THIS, I KNOW, BUT... OR  
WHATEVER IT'S WORTH...

...I'LL ALWAYS  
LOVE YOU,  
CAPTAIN.

ME TOO,  
STONEY... ME  
TOO.

THE END



YOU MET HIM FIRST IN THE PAGES OF

# DNAGENTS<sup>TM</sup>

NOW, HE'S OUT ON HIS OWN... BATTLING THE MOST  
INCREDIBLE FOES IN THE MOST UNBELIEVABLE WORLD  
EVER SEEN IN A COMIC BOOK: THE REALITY OF  
HOLLYWOOD (WHAT LITTLE THERE IS). YOU'VE  
NEVER READ ANYTHING QUITE LIKE IT; THERE'S  
NEVER BEEN A HERO QUITE LIKE...

# CROSSFIRE<sup>TM</sup>

by MARK EVANIER and DAN SPIEGLE  
CREATED BY MARK EVANIER AND WILL NEUGNIOT



**SO DON'T BELIEVE ME!!**

I DON'T CARE. **THEY EXIST!!** (THEY DO!) AND THEY WAIT (OH YES.)

THEY WAIT.

IN THE DARK, TO SUCK  
THE MARROW FROM  
YOUR BONES. TO  
SCOOP THE SOFT  
TASTY PARTS  
FROM YOUR  
SKULL!  
(FOR DESSERT!)

AND THEY'RE  
COMING,  
BROTHER!  
THEY'RE COMING.

**FOR  
YOU!!**

AND ONLY ONE  
MAN CAN STOP  
THEM.

DOG STEARN

© MICHAEL T. Gilbert

**MARROWMONSTER**

by Michael T. Gilbert & William F. Loeb



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## PRESSBUTTON #1

By Pedro Henry and Steve Dillon.  
Back-up and cover by Brian Bolland.



YES, THAT  
WAS QUITE A DEED,  
JOJO SHARING  
THIS BOOK LIKE  
HE DID!

